

CELEBRATE CCC  
ANNIVERSARY AT  
WILDLIFE REFUGE

U. S. Biological Survey  
Congratulates Boys  
on "Good Job."

CCC boys, developing the Sand Lake Migratory Waterfowl Refuge in Brown County, South Dakota, are making an invaluable contribution to the national wildlife restoration program, says Dr. Ira N. Gabrielson, Chief of the U. S. Biological Survey. His congratulations to the camp personnel came on the fifth anniversary of the CCC.

The Sand Lake camp is joining others throughout the nation this week (March 31 to April 5) in celebrating the anniversary and invites the public to visit the camp during an "open house" celebration on (insert date) to see the progress being made at this South Dakota wildlife refuge. Here the CCC boys, under the direction of the Biological Survey, are working to improve the refuge as they are in 31 other camps on refuges over the United States. They are making the refuges easier to administer and more attractive to wildlife.

"CCC boys," says Dr. Gabrielson, "are familiar figures in many localities. The public is becoming acquainted with them and their work. It can see the beneficial effect camp training has in preparing them for good citizenship. It also learns about their contributions to the wildlife program.

The Sand Lake Refuge, an area extending along the James River in northeastern South Dakota, is one of the selected areas which the Biological Survey is improving with CCC help so that it will attract and support larger numbers of wildlife.

Established by Executive Order September 4, 1935, the boys have been at work since June 27, 1935. Here a completed dam with a concrete spillway has formed a lake a mile and a half long. Nesting and resting islands dot this

artificial lake, which is from thirty to three hundred feet wide. The area, which will include 20,120 acres, supports nesting ducks in abundance. In the spring season, approximately 25,000 blue and snow geese, evenly divided as to species have been seen here. Blue-winged teal, shoveler, gadwall, pintail, mallard, ruddy duck and redhead are among the nesting species.

CCC labor has completed 15 miles of truck trail and the boys have marked 65 miles of the refuge boundary. A dwelling, 2 lookout towers and 3 garages as well as 11 other necessary buildings have been erected at the Sand Lake Refuge.

The Shelterbelt Division of the Forest Service has supplied 1,200,000 shrubs for a nursery at the sanctuary. In addition 16,150 pounds of flower, grass, shrub and hardwood seed have been collected and 2,710 acres planted to food and cover for wildlife.

Thousands of Franklin Gulls remained over a month last year at Sand Lake and a large flight of shore birds was noted. Marbled godwits, avocets, willets and northern phalaropes in migration and many stilt sandpipers visited the refuge where the boys have been carrying on surveys and rodent control work.

"All of the camp accomplishments," says Dr. Gabrielsen, "help make the waterfowl and other wildlife at Sand Lake feel at home. The boys' work will serve as a lasting monument to the CCC. Five years ago when our wildlife resources, especially waterfowl, were in serious danger, the Biological Survey had a restoration program. It lacked the means and man power to carry it out. Then emergency funds for buying refuge areas became available. About the same time CCC help for development work was obtained. This was indeed a happy coincidence as the accomplishments on record today were only dreamed of five years ago."